

Claims

[c1] 1. A method to electronically publish media comprising the steps of: accessing an electronic data file; receiving a publication instruction from a user to publish the accessed data file; initializing a publication enabler capable of converting a data file into at least one publication format, wherein the publication enabler is independent of a document creation application used to create the electronic data file; selecting a publication format via the publication enabler; if necessary, converting the accessed data file into another publication format; and publishing the data file in at least one publication format.

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of publishing further comprises at least one of the steps of displaying the data file on a graphical user interface, transmitting the data file via an electronic messaging system to at least one remote user, and storing the data file in memory of a computer.

[c3] 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of routing the data file to at least one of an approving supervisor and a work flow recipient.

[c4] 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one publication format includes at least one of an RTF, HTML, PDF, TIFF, JPEG, GIF, BMP, and fax compression format.

[c5] 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the data file to a document management system (DMS) capable of assigning a coded filename, a storage location, and a file identifier to the data file.

[c6] 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of retrieving the data file from the DMS based on any of the file identifier, coded filename, storage location, an author, a title, a subject, a format, an approver, and a work flow recipient.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of initializing the publication enabler with any application capable of printing the electronic data

file.

[c8] 8. A computer program to publish electronic media having a set of instructions that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:
identify a command from a user to manage an electronic media;
access the electronic media;
initialize a media publisher independent of a media creation application and configured to control publication of the electronic media, wherein the media publisher is further configured to transform the content of the electronic media into at least one publication format;
receive a media control instruction from the user to transform the content of the electronic media into at least one publication format; and
publish the content of the electronic media in accordance with the received media control instruction.

[c9] 9. The computer program of claim 8 wherein the at least one publication format includes media formats foreign to the media creation application.

[c10] 10. The computer program of claim 8 wherein the at least one publication format includes at least a portable document format, a hypertext markup language, an x-markup language, a rich text format, a JPEG format, a GIF format, a TIFF format, encryption formats, a bitmap format, compression format and electronic messaging formats.

[c11] 11. The computer program of claim 8 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to transmit the content of the electronic media to a document management system capable of storing the contents to a readily identifiable data file.

[c12] 12. The computer program of claim 8 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to receive more than one media control instruction and simultaneously transform the content of the electronic media into more than one format.

[c13] 13. The computer program of claim 8 wherein the media publisher is configured

to be implemented with a plurality of media creation applications.

[c14] 14. The computer program of claim 8 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to retrieve the content of an electronic media from a document management system.

[c15] 15. The computer program of claim 8 wherein the set of instructions further causes the computer to electronically transmit the content of the electronic media to a remote terminal via a communication interface including a telephone interface, an electronic message interface, and a wireless interface.

[c16] 16. A printer driver embodying a sequence of instructions that when executed by a processor causes the processor to:

- (A) access an electronic data file;
- (B) display a graphical user interface (GUI) configured to facilitate user selection of a number of publication commands;
- (C) receive a user selection of at least one publication command;
- (D) route the electronic data file to a converter configured to convert the electronic data file into at least one of a number of publication formats; and
- (E) transmit the converted data file to at least one publication system capable of publishing the converted data file in the at least one publication format.

[c17] 17. The printer driver of claim 16 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to display the GUI in response to a document management instruction.

[c18] 18. The printer driver of claim 17 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to execute acts (A) (E) in response to a user print instruction.

[c19] 19. The printer driver of claim 18 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to recognize a user print instruction from any software application capable of printing the electronic data file.

[c20] 20. The printer driver of claim 16 wherein the number of publication commands

include a publish command, a compress command, and a number of conversion commands including a convert to PDF command and a convert to HTML command.

[c21] 21. The printer driver of claim 16 wherein the number of publication formats include PDF, JPEG, GIF, TIFF, HTML, XML, RTF, TXT, DOC, encryption, PPT and ZIP.

[c22] 22. The printer driver of claim 16 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor to retrieve an electronic data file from a document management system capable of storing the electronic data file.

[c23] 23. The printer driver of claim 16 wherein the sequence of distortions further causes the processor to route the connected data file to a supervisor and a subsequent document designate.

[c24] 24. The printer driver of claim 16 wherein the sequence of instructions further causes the processor, in response to a user instructions, displays a listing of document approving supervisors.

[c25] 25. A system for publishing documents to a document management system comprising:
a computerized network
a readable memory electronically linked to the network;
a plurality of computers connected to the network, wherein at least one of the plurality of computers, displays electronic data to a user in the form of a graphical user interface (GUI);
a processing unit programmed to call the GUI on demand and enable a user selection of one or more publication formats, wherein the one or more publication formats include publication formats non-native to a creation document format; and
wherein the processing unit is further programmed to convert a document to at least one of the publication formats.

[c26] 26. The system of claim 25 wherein the processing unit is further programmed

to automatically generate a document identifier and assign the document identifier to the document.

- [c27] 27. The system of claim 25 wherein the processing unit is further programmed to assign a document title, document subject, and document author to the document.
- [c28] 28. The system of claim 25 wherein the processing unit is further programmed to display a list of a number of supervisors approving and a list of a number of work flow document recipients upon a user instruction.
- [c29] 29. The system of claim 28 wherein the processing unit is further programmed to route the document to at least one supervising approver and work flow document recipient upon a user instruction.
- [c30] 30. The system of claim 25 wherein the processing unit is further programmed to call the GUI regardless from which application a user desires to print.